Vladimir Putin dismisses Donald Trump dossier claims as 'rubbish'

By Angela Dewan and Milena Veselinovic, CNN

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Story highlights

NEW: Putin says people who create false information are worse than prostitutes

Putin on Trump: "We did not know about his political ambitions"

President-elect.

(CNN) — Russian President Vladimir Putin said Tuesday that a damning dossier on US President-elect Donald Trump was "false" and dismissed allegations that his country's security services had been monitoring Trump as "rubbish."

Putin made clear Tuesday he was familiar with some of the unsubstantiated allegations about Donald Trump in a dossier prepared by a former British intelligence agent. The dossier was published in full by Buzzfeed a week ago. As CNN previously reported, Trump and President Obama were told about the dossier by senior intelligence officials, who warned that Russia may have gathered compromising material on the

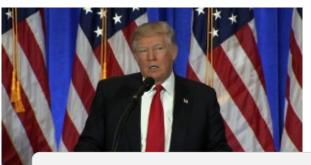
"These things that have been alleged are clearly false information," Putin said during a joint news conference in Moscow with the Moldovan president.

"It is true that when (Trump) came to Moscow -- I don't remember when, a few years ago -- he was not a political actor. We did not know about his political ambitions. He was just a businessman, one of the rich people of America. What do you think -- we have special security services running after every American billionaire? Of course not. It is complete rubbish," Putin added.

Putin joked about the allegations before vigorously defending Trump and attacking those who prepared and published the dossier:

"Did Trump really come and meet with Moscow prostitutes? Firstly he is an adult, and secondly he is a person who for many years has organized a beauty pageant, socialized with the most beautiful women in the world. It is hard to believe that he ran to a hotel to meet with our girls of a low social class, although they are the best in the world," Putin said.

"But finally, you know, what I want to say, prostitution is a serious, ugly, social phenomenon, young women do this connected to the fact that they cannot survive any other way and that is a problem of society but people who order false information and spread this information against the elected President, who fabricate it and use it in a political fight, they are worse than prostitutes," he added.

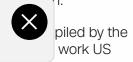


The Russian leader also said he had never met the Presidentelect.

"I don't know what he will be doing on the international stage. So I have no foundation to criticize him nor to defend him," Putin added.

The accusations against Russian security officials were presented in a two-page synopsis, appended to a report on

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President-elect Donald Trump has dismissed the dossier as 'fake news.'

intelligence officials consider credible. The FBI is investigating the credibility and accuracy of these allegations, which are based primarily on information from Russian sources, but has not confirmed many essential details in the memos about Trump.

Trump dismissed the allegations as "fake news" at a news conference last week.



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